

**PATENT
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: P. A. Billing-Medel, *et al.*

Serial No.: 08/962,094

Filed: October 31, 1997

For: REAGENTS AND METHODS
USEFUL FOR DETECTING
DISEASES OF THE BREAST

Examiner: L. Arthur

Group Art Unit: 1655

Case No.: 5995.US.P1

Date: August 8, 2000

EXPRESS MAIL NO.: EL384169032US

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I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail Post Office to Addressee Service with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box CPA
Washington, D.C. 20231, on:

Date of Deposit: August 8, 2000

Wanda E. Smith 8/8/00
Wanda E. Smith Date

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box CPA
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Advisory Action letter dated July 6, 2000 of P. A. Billing-Medel, *et al.*, for REAGENTS AND METHODS USEFUL FOR DETECTING DISEASES OF THE BREAST, enclosed herewith are:

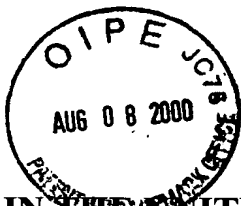
1. Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) Request (in duplicate)
2. Preliminary Amendment with Exhibit A
3. Request for Extension of Time – 1 pg.
4. Return Receipt Post Card (1)

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any filing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16, as well as any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17 associated with this communication for which full payment has not been tendered, to Deposit Account No. 01-0025. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,
P. A. Billing-Medel, *et al.*

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#201C
9-7-00
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box CPA
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

A Continued Prosecution Application accompanies this Preliminary Amendment and is dependent upon the parent file 08/962,094, filed October 31, 1997. This is further responsive to the Advisory Action dated July 6, 2000. Claims 1-13, 15, 16, 33, 35 and 38-48 are under examination.

A request for a two month extension of time accompanies this response, thereby extending the time for reply from June 8, 2000 to August 8, 2000.

AMENDMENTS

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

✓
Please amend claims the claims as follows:

C
1. (Twice Amended) A method of detecting the presence of breast disease in a patient by detecting a target polynucleotide [indicative of breast disease] in a patient test sample, comprising: